Contents

Editor's Note

Editor's Introduction: “To Read What Was Never Written” ix

PART I: LANGUAGE

§ 1 The Thing Itself 27
§ 2 The Idea of Language 39
§ 3 Language and History: Linguistic and Historical Categories in Benjamin’s Thought 48
§ 4 Philosophy and Linguistics 62
§ 5 Kommerell, or On Gesture 77

PART II: HISTORY

§ 6 Aby Warburg and the Nameless Science 89
§ 7 Tradition of the Immemorial 104
§ 8 Se: Hegel’s Absolute and Heidegger’s Ereignis 116
§ 9 Walter Benjamin and the Demonic: Happiness and Historical Redemption 138
The Messiah and the Sovereign: The Problem of Law in Walter Benjamin

PART III: POTENTIALITY

§ 11 On Potentiality

§ 12 The Passion of Facticity

§ 13 Pardes: The Writing of Potentiality

§ 14 Absolute Immanence

PART IV: CONTINGENCY

§ 15 Bartleby, or On Contingency

Notes

Index of Names